

— introducing  
the

# gay humanist group



we are

**GAYS**  
who support  
**HUMANIST  
VALUES**

&

**HUMANISTS**  
who support  
**GAY  
RIGHTS**

Honorary President:—

Maureen Duffy

**"Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered, and can in no case be approved of."**

*Official Papal Statement issued by the Vatican, 1976.*

**"Homosexuality in my mind, will never be normality, because I can see what normality means is a man and a woman procreating."**

*Cliff Richard, 1977.*

**"Save Ulster from Sodomy,"**

*Campaign led by Ian Paisley, MP, 1977.*

**"Homosexual practices are unnatural, and represent a serious distortion of human sexuality."**

*Raymond Johnston, Director, Nationwide Festival of Light, 1978.*

**"It is a handicap that homosexuals have to learn to cope with"**

*Dr. Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1981*

**"No amount of interpreting can deny that the practice of homosexuality is sinful, without also denying the sinfulness of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossiping, slander, boasting and other sins listed in Romans 1."**

*Letter to the Methodist Recorder from a group of theological students, May 1979.*

**"Homosexuality is NOT a private matter. By its very nature homosexuality corrupts all around it. It defiles, it degrades, it contaminates, it ruins innocent lives."**

*Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, 1982.*

Much of this prejudice is based on nothing more substantial than the religious belief that homosexuality is "sinful".

Worse still, this irrational fear and hatred of homosexuality has become enshrined in legal and social sanctions against gay people.

**BUT HUMANISTS SPEAK OUT  
FOR GAY RIGHTS ...**

## Now take a look at these quotes from leading humanists:—

"What has the humanist to say about this vital problem of human life? First, that reform is long overdue, and that every day we delay in bringing about that reform, more homosexuals will be blackmailed, beaten up and robbed, and more will commit suicide rather than face the society that will show them no mercy."

*Kit Mouat, 1963, from "What Humanism is About", Pemberton Books.*

"What is the humanist attitude to homosexuality? Homosexual acts between consenting adults have been made legal (in England and Wales, though not in Northern Ireland, nor in the armed services or among crews of merchant ships), but 'adults' in this law means men over the age of 21, and humanist opinion is that this is too high an age. Most humanists say that the age should either be 18, since people are now considered adult for all other purposes at 18, or 16, since that is the age at which other sexual relationships are allowed by law. So a campaign for lowering the age of consent for homosexuals is still going on."

*Barbara Smoker, 1973, from "Humanism", Ward Lock International.*

"This AGM supports the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the Scottish Minorities Group and the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association in their efforts to obtain equality at law between homosexuals and heterosexuals."

*British Humanist Association, 1976. Annual General Meeting.*

"Humanists have contributed to the movement in favour of more liberal ideas about sex, including the recognition of the rights of homosexuals and lesbians - not merely their rights, but how they should be respected as others are."

*Lord Fenner Brockway, BHA conference, 1981.*

# ***Are you a humanist?***

Humanists are a group of people who have a variety of views on many issues. We believe diversity is beneficial; what we call 'The Open Mind in the Open Society'.

But we are united on general principles.

## **VALUES**

We believe that values are important - values based on reason and compassion.

We try to think things out for ourselves and do not accept authority without question. We are opposed to all dogma, whether it claims to come from laws of economics, or history or from God.

## **REASON**

We are convinced that progress comes about from the use of human reason, applying the scientific method.

We believe people should work together to solve their problems co-operatively.

We should rely on our reason, not our emotions, and today this is more important than ever.

We accordingly oppose superstitions great and small, especially those which claim to provide unique and ultimate answers.

## **REFORM**

We have a long record of working for social reforms. Today, these concerns include:

- Racial equality
- World poverty
- Equality for the non-religious
- Women's rights
- Gay rights

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

We feel we must take responsibility for our actions, for the kind of society we live in, and for our future as a species.

**"My country is  
the world, and  
my religion is  
to do good."**

**Thomas Paine**

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Send s.a.e. to GHG  
for free book list

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### **HUMANIST ORGANISATIONS**

International Humanist and  
Ethical Union  
PO Box 114      Ouderacht 152  
Utrecht      Netherlands

British Humanist Association  
13 Prince of Wales Terrace  
London W8 5PG  
(01) 937 2341

National Secular Society  
702 Holloway Road  
London N19 3NL  
(01) 272 1266

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Gay Humanist Group  
34 Spring Lane  
Kenilworth      Warwickshire

# The aims of GHG are to:

- Promote an understanding & awareness of humanism among gay people
- Further an understanding & awareness of gay people among humanists
- Protect & promote the rights of gays & humanists

If you would like to support GHG, become a member by filling in the form below, and you will receive the quarterly newsletter and news of the group's monthly meetings and other events.

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To: The Secretary, GHG  
34, Spring Lane,  
Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire.

I support the above aims  
and apply for membership of GHG  
enclosing my annual subscription.

(£ 2.00 for non-earners  
£ 3.50 for others. )

Signed:

date:

NAME:

ADDRESS: